

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-19 (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A disposable ampoule opener comprising an elongated housing member having an inner cavity shaped to receive a portion of an ampoule, ~~a longitudinal housing axis;~~ an open housing end, a closed housing end, sidewalls disposed between the open housing end and the closed housing end, the sidewalls having an outer housing surface and an inner housing surface forming at least a portion of the inner cavity, wherein at least one inner rib circumscribes at least a portion of the inner housing surface proximate the open housing end; and a lid ~~rotatably secured by a hinge~~ to the housing proximate the open housing end, the lid being capable of a closed position and an open position.

21. (Withdrawn) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 20, additionally comprising a latch for keeping the open housing end covered with at least a portion of the lid.

22. (Withdrawn) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 20, additionally comprising a latch that includes a first latch structure integral with the elongated housing proximate the open housing end and a second latch structure integral with the lid, the first and second latch structures being capable of interlocking to secure the lid in a closed position.

23. (Withdrawn) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 20, additionally comprising means for securing the lid in a closed position.

24. (Original) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 20, wherein the elongated housing member includes two sections hingedly connected to one another.

## PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. STRR/0004.C1

25. (Withdrawn) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 20, wherein either the lid includes an aperture and the elongated housing member a protrusion sized to fit into the aperture; or the elongated housing member includes an aperture, and the lid includes a protrusion sized to fit into the aperture.
26. (Withdrawn) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 20, additionally comprising a hinge by which the lid is rotatably secured to the elongated housing member.
27. (Withdrawn) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 20, additionally comprising a plastic bendable hinge by which the lid is rotatably secured to the elongated housing member.
28. (Withdrawn) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 20, the lid having an outer surface and a company logo thereon.
29. (Withdrawn) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 20, the lid having an outer surface with a substantially smooth portion outer surface and a company logo.
30. (Withdrawn) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 20, wherein the closed housing end is substantially transparent.
31. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 20, wherein the closed housing end or at least a portion of the sidewalls is sufficiently transparent to enable viewing of a portion of an ampoule inside the housing member.
32. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 20, wherein the outer housing surface of the elongated housing member has one or more outer ridges on a portion of the outer housing surface, the ridges being perpendicular to the longitudinal housing axis.
33. (Currently Amended) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 20, wherein the ampoule has a neck portion and the elongated housing member includes two housing sections connected

PATENT  
Atty. Dkt. No. STRR/0004.C1

to one another, and wherein the ~~inner housing surface forming at least a portion of the inner cavity includes~~ at least one inner rib ~~circumscribing at least a portion of the inner housing surface~~ is located proximate the open housing end and ~~having~~ has an inner diameter sized to receive the neck portion of the ampoule.

34. (Currently Amended) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 20, wherein the first and second elongated housing portions are hingedly connected to one another such that the first elongated housing portion is capable of being rotated toward the second housing portion to form ~~an~~ the enclosed cavity with ~~an~~ the open housing end and a the closed housing end, the first elongated housing portion having a substantially concave first inner surface, the second elongated housing portion having a substantially concave second inner surface, the structure further including one or more ribs forming part of the first elongated housing portion or the second elongated housing portion.

35. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 20, wherein the elongated housing member includes a first housing portion and a second housing portion, the first and second housing portions being hingedly connected to one another, the first and second housing portions having one or more latches for securing the first and second housing portions together when in a closed position.

36. (New) A disposable ampoule opener comprising an elongated housing member having an open housing end; an outer housing surface; an inner cavity having an inner housing surface and shaped to receive a portion of an ampoule; and an inner rib circumscribing at least a portion of the inner housing surface proximate the open housing end; wherein at least a portion of the elongated housing member is sufficiently transparent to enable viewing of at least a portion of an ampoule inside the housing member.

37. (New) The ampoule opener of claim 36, additionally comprising a lid secured to the housing proximate the open housing end, the lid being capable of a closed position and an open position.

38. (New) The ampoule opener of claim 37, additionally comprising a latch for holding the lid in a closed position.

39. (New) The ampoule opener of claim 36, wherein the ampoule opener includes at least two housing sections that combine to form the elongated housing member with the inner cavity and wherein the ampoule opener is connected to one or more other ampoule openers to form an assembly comprising multiple ampoule openers.

40. (New) A disposable ampoule opener comprising an elongated, transparent cylindrical housing assembly that is formed of two or more sections of transparent plastic, the housing assembly including: an open housing end; a closed housing end; sidewalls extending between the open housing end and the closed housing end, the sidewalls including one or more outer housing surfaces and one or more inner housing surfaces; the one or more inner housing surfaces defining an inner cavity having a size and shape for receiving and holding a tip portion of an ampoule; an inner rib circumscribing at least a portion of the inner housing surface proximate the open housing end, wherein the inner portion of the inner rib is substantially circular and has a diameter larger than the diameter of a neck of an ampoule and smaller than the diameter of a tip of an ampoule; a lid rotatably secured by a hinge to the housing assembly proximate the open housing end, the lid being capable of a closed position and an open position; and means for holding the lid in a closed position.